

THE HONORABLE JAMES L. ROBERT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

ANNA PATRICK, ET AL., individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DAVID L. RAMSEY, III, individually; HAPPY
HOUR MEDIA GROUP, LLC, a Washington
limited liability company; THE LAMPO
GROUP, LLC, a Tennessee limited liability
company,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:23-cv-00630 JLR

**DEFENDANT HAPPY HOUR MEDIA
GROUP, LLC'S REPLY IN SUPPORT
OF RENEWED MOTION TO DISMISS
PLAINTIFFS' AMENDED COMPLAINT**

NOTED ON MOTION CALENDAR:

JANUARY 26, 2024

I. REPLY ARGUMENT

A. On a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the Court should not consider evidence outside of the Amended Complaint offered in the plaintiffs' attorney's declaration.

Paragraphs 2-6 of the Declaration of Greg Albert (Dkt. 66) go beyond authenticating judicially noticeable documents and offer fact testimony. This testimony is inappropriate for a response to a Rule 12(b)(6) Motion and should not be considered by the Court. *Khoja v. Orexigen Therapeutics, Inc.*, 899 F.3d 988, 998 (9th Cir. 2018). Plaintiffs' attempt to

1 introduce testimony outside the Amended Complaint betrays their understanding that the
 2 allegations in the Amended Complaint are inadequate on their own to state a claim.

3 **B. The *Adolph* Judgment is clear: Plaintiffs can “never execute upon or attempt to**
 4 **enforce any judgment against” Mr. Reed’s assets.**

5 Plaintiffs admit that they are members of the *Adolph* class, bound by the *Adolph*
 6 Judgment. Dkt. 65 at 8:15-16.¹ The Judgment says Plaintiffs “will never execute upon or
 7 attempt to enforce any judgment against the assets of the Defendant Parties beyond the
 8 insurance assets, legal claims, and other claims or assets referenced and described above in
 9 Term B.” *Adolph* Dkt. 45 at 5:21-24.² And Plaintiffs do not deny that their own counsel
 10 specifically and repeatedly identified the assets that Brandon Reed would retain after the
 11 judgment as (1) an aging receivable from Trevor Hein and (2) a 50% interest in Happy Hour,
 12 LLC. *Adolph* Dkt. 24 at 2:15-23; *Adolph* Dkt. 25 ¶ 23; *Adolph* Dkt. 37 at 6:14-15.

13 By attempting to obtain and enforce a judgment against Happy Hour in this lawsuit,
 14 Plaintiffs are defying the *Adolph* Judgment.

15 **1. The argument that Mr. Reed tried to trick the *Adolph* Court is a case of**
 16 **projection.**

17 Plaintiffs’ argument that Mr. Reed hid something from the *Adolph* Court or tried to trick
 18 that Court is irrelevant. The task before this Court is to determine the legal effect of the objective
 19 facts in the pertinent written record of the *Adolph* suit. The Court does not need to try to figure
 20 out the subjective intent of any party. But to the extent the Court considers Plaintiffs’ argument,
 21
 22

23 ¹ Plaintiffs’ lengthy argument that *Skilstaf, Inc. v. CVS Caremark Corp.*, 669 F.3d 1005 (9th
 24 Cir. 2012) does not apply is moot. Dkt. 65 at 11:7-13. Happy Hour discussed *Skilstaf* to establish that
 Plaintiffs are bound by the *Adolph* Judgment, which Plaintiffs have admitted.

25 ² Documents from the *Adolph* docket may be found with corresponding exhibit numbers in
 Dkt. 62.

1 the *Adolph* record belies the claim that there was any attempt to prevent the Court from realizing
2 that the Judgment would protect Happy Hour from legal actions by the Plaintiffs.

3 The *Adolph* Court knew what Mr. Reed’s assets were. The Court was told repeatedly
4 about his ownership of Happy Hour. *Adolph* Dkt. 24 at 2:15-23; *Adolph* Dkt. 25 at ¶ 23. The
5 *Adolph* Court knew which assets Mr. Reed was giving up and which he was keeping. The Court
6 knew that as a result of the Judgment, Mr. Reed would have no assets left other than the aged
7 receivable and Happy Hour. *Adolph* Dkt. 24 at 2:15–23 and 8:12–13. The *Adolph* Court knew
8 why the Plaintiffs were allowing Happy Hour to go untouched. Plaintiffs’ counsel told the Court
9 that Happy Hour was not worth attempting to capture and liquidate. *Adolph* Dkt. 24 at 2:15-23
10 and 8:12-13; Dkt. 25 ¶¶ 23-24, 27; Dkt. 37 at 6:14-15 and 7:8-9. The Court knew the judgment
11 would protect Mr. Reed’s surviving assets; Mr. Reed, the Plaintiffs, and the Court all signed
12 off on the statement that “The purpose of this Agreement is to secure a judgment against
13 Defendants ReedHein (sic), Makaymax, and Brandon Reed for the benefit of the Plaintiff Class
14 *and to protect the assets, earnings and individual liability of Defendant Parties from claims by*
15 *the Plaintiff Class* that might result in a substantial excess verdict.” *Adolph* Dkt. 45 at 2:4-7
16 (emphasis added). The *Adolph* Court also knew what sort of protection Mr. Reed’s remaining
17 assets would receive; Plaintiffs would “never execute upon or attempt to enforce any judgment”
18 against those assets. *Adolph* Dkts. 44, 44-1, and 45 at 5:20-23.

19 If there was any attempt to conceal intentions from the Court, it was not by Mr. Reed.
20 In an effort to get the settlement approved, the *Adolph* class told the Court that pursuing a
21 recovery from Mr. Reed’s two remaining assets was futile because the receivable from Mr.
22 Hein was uncollectable and Happy Hour had a negative balance sheet and would not produce a
23 net recovery. *Adolph* Dkt. 24 at 8:12-13; *Adolph* Dkt. 25 ¶¶ 23-24. But now, the Plaintiffs are
24 fighting for the chance to sue Happy Hour, telling *this* Court that Happy Hour is a “profitable
25 company with more than one-million (sic) dollars in assets.” Dkt. 65 at 1:19-20. Plaintiffs are also

1 saying that although they told the *Adolph* Court about Mr. Reed’s ownership of Happy Hour and
 2 agreed to “never execute upon or attempt to enforce *any* judgment against” Mr. Reed’s assets, they
 3 really only meant that they would not enforce the *Adolph* judgment specifically and, though they
 4 did not tell the *Adolph* Court this, they always intended to seek and enforce another judgment
 5 against Happy Hour based on the same set of facts.³

6 **2. The notices to class members are irrelevant.**

7 The *Adolph* Judgment says what it says. The Response writes at length about the notices
 8 that Plaintiffs’ counsel sent to class members and what they might mean. Dkt. 65 at 16:4-17:4.
 9 But the Court does not need to review the notices, which were drafted by class counsel (*see*
 10 Dkt. 24 at 3:8-21, 16:18-17:12), in order to interpret the plain language of the *Adolph* Judgment.

11 **3. This lawsuit is, effectively, an attempt to execute on the *Adolph* Judgment.**

12 The Response asks the Court to ignore the *Adolph* Court’s explicit prohibition on
 13 enforcing “any judgment” against Mr. Reed’s assets, and read the *Adolph* Judgment as if it
 14 prohibits enforcing only the *Adolph* Judgment. Dkt. 65 at 9:6-7. But because of the “one
 15 satisfaction” rule, there is no effective difference between enforcing the *Adolph* Judgment and
 16 enforcing some other judgment based on the same nucleus of facts, such as the judgment
 17 Plaintiffs are seeking in this suit.

18 The one satisfaction rule reflects the equitable principle that a plaintiff who has
 19 received full satisfaction of its claims from one tortfeasor generally cannot sue
 20 to recover additional damages corresponding to the same injury from the
 remaining tortfeasors.

21 *Uthe Tech Corp. v. Aetrium, Inc.*, 808 F.3d 755, 759–60 (9th Cir. 2015). Because of this rule
 22 and the law’s desire to avoid double recovery, where a plaintiff seeks the same damages from
 23 two different defendants in two actions, a recovery from one defendant will offset the damages
 24

25 ³ Perhaps the plan to sue Happy Hour was the “work product” Plaintiffs claimed could not be
 revealed in the motion for approval of the *Adolph* settlement. *Adolph* Dkt. 25 ¶ 26(f).

recoverable from the other. *Id.* (citing *City of San Jose v. Price Waterhouse*, No. 91-16489, 1993 WL 83495, at *1 (9th Cir. Mar. 23, 1993) (“An offset is available where the settlement and the jury verdict represent common damages.”)).

The *Adolph* Judgment represents all of the damages the Plaintiffs are alleging in this lawsuit, i.e. all of the money they paid to Reed Hein, plus treble damages under the WCPA. *See, e.g., Adolph* Dkt. 24 at 12:1-5; *Adolph* Dkt. 25 ¶¶ 32-48, 6:22-24; compare Dkt. 55 at 52:1. Under the one satisfaction rule, any money recovered from Happy Hour in this action would offset and reduce the amount due on the *Adolph* Judgment, just as if the Plaintiffs directly executed the *Adolph* Judgment against Happy Hour. Thus, even under Plaintiffs’ incorrect reading of the *Adolph* Judgment, this lawsuit is an attempt to defy the *Adolph* Judgment by executing it against Happy Hour.

4. A 50% interest in a two-member LLC is not the same as a share of Microsoft.

The Response repeatedly characterizes Mr. Reed’s interest in Happy Hour as not “controlling.” *See, e.g.,* Dkt. 65 at 10:16-11:5. There is no allegation in the Amended Complaint that Mr. Reed lacks control of Happy Hour. Absent any allegation to the contrary, this Court must assume that Happy Hour is controlled by Mr. Reed because his 50% membership interest cannot be outvoted. *Cf.* RCW 82.45.033(1)(b) (for real estate excise tax purposes, a controlling interest in an “other entity” is “fifty percent or more of the capital, profits, or beneficial interest”); RCW 82.04.299 (to the same effect for certain business taxes).

Plaintiffs’ mischaracterization of Mr. Reed’s interest in Happy Hour reaches its peak when Plaintiffs argue that “there is little functional difference” between one share of Microsoft and a 50% interest in a two-member LLC. Dkt. 65 at 21:7. The differences are legion and obvious. There are more than two shares of Microsoft. Shares in Microsoft are fungible and publicly traded. A single share of Microsoft can be outvoted. If Microsoft is subject to a lawsuit,

1 the owner of a single share will not be involved or see their livelihood materially change. The
 2 founders of Microsoft do not own a single share.

3 **5. Happy Hour is Mr. Reed's asset.**

4 The goal of the Plaintiffs' ridiculous comparison of Happy Hour to Microsoft is to
 5 manufacture an argument that Happy Hour is not actually an asset of Brandon Reed, or that a
 6 lawsuit against Happy Hour does not affect Mr. Reed's interest in Happy Hour, and therefore
 7 the *Adolph* Court's prohibition on enforcing any judgment against Mr. Reed's assets has
 8 nothing to do with Happy Hour. While there may be a context in which a valid distinction can
 9 be drawn between an interest in an LLC and the LLC itself, this is not it. The *Adolph* Court was
 10 told that Mr. Reed's 50% interest in Happy Hour was essentially all he had to live on. The
 11 *Adolph* class said it was not going to pursue any recovery from Mr. Reed's interest in Happy
 12 Hour because Happy Hour was not a good litigation target. And the *Adolph* Judgment says it is
 13 meant to protect "the assets, earnings and individual liability of Defendant Parties from claims
 14 by the Plaintiff Class." *Adolph* Dkt. 45 at 2:4-7. In this context, given the terms of the *Adolph*
 15 Judgment, the Judgment protects Happy Hour from the enforcement of any judgment by
 16 members of the *Adolph* class.

17 **6. Plaintiffs are judicially estopped from denying that Happy Hour is an**
 18 **asset of Brandon Reed.**

19 Plaintiffs argue that they are free to contradict in this lawsuit the statements made on
 20 their behalf in *Adolph* without any resistance from the doctrine of judicial estoppel because
 21 *Adolph* ended in a settlement. Each of the cases cited in support of this argument is
 22 distinguishable because each of them involved settlements of prior litigations in which the
 23 Court was not involved. In contrast, in *Adolph* the Plaintiffs brought successful motions to the
 24 Court for class certification for settlement purposes, for preliminary approval of settlement, for
 25 final approval, and for entry of judgment. In those submissions, they made claims to the Court

1 about Mr. Reed's assets that led to the Court granting the relief they requested, including
 2 approval of the settlement. Now, Plaintiffs are contradicting themselves, claiming Happy Hour
 3 is not Mr. Reed's asset in hopes that they can unfairly advantage themselves and impose a
 4 detriment on Happy Hour. These facts are all that is required for judicial estoppel to apply.
 5 *Hamilton v. State Farm Fire & Cas. Co.*, 270 F.3d 778, 782 (9th Cir. 2001).

6 **7. Relief cannot be granted to the Plaintiffs against Happy Hour.**

7 Plaintiffs argue that even if they cannot execute any judgment against Happy Hour, such
 8 a judgment could still be valuable because having a judgment against Happy Hour could allow
 9 Plaintiffs to increase the amount recoverable from the Ramsey defendants through joint and
 10 several liability. Dkt. 65 at 16:6-17:11. This argument does not hold. A jury in this case,
 11 regardless of who the defendant or defendants are, will be asked to apportion fault to "each
 12 party and relevant nonparty." *Afoa v. Port of Seattle*, 191 Wn.2d 110, 119, 421 P.3d 903, 908
 13 (2018). If the Ramsey Defendants and Happy Hour are found to be at fault, the question of
 14 whether the Ramsey Defendants will be severally liable for only their share of fault or jointly
 15 and severally liable for both their portion and Happy Hour's, will depend on whether the
 16 Plaintiffs can prove an exception to the general rule of several liability, such as Plaintiffs' lack
 17 of fault or action in concert by the at-fault entities. RCW 4.22.070 (1)(a, b). It is possible for
 18 Plaintiffs to establish joint and several liability of a defendant even for a non-party's portion of
 19 the fault. *Afoa*, 191 Wn.2d at 119 (defendant Port could have been jointly and severally liable
 20 for non-party airline's fault of plaintiff had timely asserted the "agency" exception to several
 21 liability.).

22 If Plaintiffs obtain a judgment against the Ramsey Defendants, and establish a basis for
 23 joint and several liability, they will not gain any additional rights against the Ramsey
 24 Defendants by obtaining an unenforceable judgment against Happy Hour. Because the
 25 Plaintiffs cannot enforce a judgment against Happy Hour or derive other relief from such a

1 judgment, no effective relief can be granted against Happy Hour. Having failed to state a claim
 2 upon which relief can be granted against Happy Hour, Plaintiffs Amended Complaint must be
 3 dismissed.

4 **C. Plaintiffs do not identify an unfair or deceptive act by Happy Hour to support**
 5 **their claim under the Washington Consumer Protection Act (“WCPA”).**

6 Plaintiffs’ WCPA discussion begins by contending that Happy Hour was wrong to argue
 7 that its alleged conduct did not occur in trade or commerce. Dkt. 65 at 17:12-19:2. Happy Hour
 8 made no such argument, so Plaintiffs’ pages were wasted.

9 Happy Hour argued that Plaintiffs failed to plead any unfair or deceptive act *by Happy*
 10 *Hour*. As the Motion says, and Plaintiffs’ Response ignores: when the Amended Complaint
 11 states its WCPA claim, it lists a series of alleged actions by the Ramsey Defendants and says
 12 nothing about Happy Hour. Dkt. 55 ¶ 221, see also ¶¶ 5-6.

13 Plaintiffs’ one response to Happy Hour’s actual argument is that they have alleged that
 14 Happy Hour “promoted false or misleading advertising.” Dkt. 19:11-12.⁴ But as the Motion
 15 points out, and Plaintiffs ignore, the Amended Complaint does not provide any factual matter
 16 to explain what Plaintiffs mean by alleging that Happy Hour “promoted” advertisements. Dkt.
 17 61 at 19:13-14. The Plaintiffs do not allege that Happy Hour generated any false claims. The
 18 only factual content in the Amended Complaint that may explain Plaintiffs’ meaning, is the
 19 allegation that Happy Hour was an intermediary for Reed Hein’s payments to the Ramsey
 20 Defendants. Dkt. No. 55 at ¶¶ 116, 118, 121, 134. The Amended Complaint never says that any
 21 Plaintiff was deceived by Happy Hour making a payment and the Response does not cite any
 22 law to support the contention that paying for a client’s ad space can be unfair or deceptive.⁵

23
 24 ⁴ Plaintiffs do not argue that any of their other allegations against Happy Hour state a claim for
 25 unfair or deceptive conduct. See Dkt. 61 at 19:5–20:17 (analyzing allegations).

⁵ As discussed below, the Restatement of Torts chapter cited by Plaintiffs in connection with
 negligent misrepresentation suggests that where a company puts a false claim in its advertisement,

1 Plaintiffs have failed to identify an unfair or deceptive act by Happy Hour, so their claim
2 for violation of the WCPA against Happy Hour must be dismissed.

3 **D. The Restatement of Torts does not save Plaintiffs' claim for negligent**
4 **misrepresentation.**

5 **1. Plaintiffs do not identify any false statement made by Happy Hour.**

6 With respect to negligent misrepresentation, Plaintiffs' response again sets out to defeat
7 an argument Happy Hour did not make. This time, the straw man argument is that Happy Hour
8 cannot be liable if it did not make its misrepresentations *directly* to the Plaintiffs. Dkt. 65 at
9 20:4-21:18. Happy Hour's actual argument on the first element of the tort ("the defendant
10 supplied information for the guidance of another in his or her business transaction") is that there
11 is no allegation that Happy Hour supplied any information. Dkt. 61 at 21:18-23. Happy Hour is
12 alleged to have passed money from Reed Hein to Ramsey, not to have conjured up false
13 statements.

14 The illustration Plaintiffs mention from the Restatement (Second) of Torts § 552 (1997)
15 (Illustration 4) supports Happy Hour's Motion. In the illustration, a land-seller originates a
16 misrepresentation and gives it to a real estate board, which broadcasts it to 1,000 potential
17 buyers, one of whom relies on the misrepresentation and buys the land. The Restatement says
18 the seller who originated the misrepresentation is liable, but does not say the real estate board
19 is.

20 Following this illustration, if, as Plaintiffs allege, Reed Hein came up with
21 misrepresentations that were broadcast by the Ramsey Defendants, then Reed Hein may be
22 liable to the people who heard them. But nothing in the illustration suggests that Ramsey is
23 liable, much less Happy Hour, who is not analogous to any character in the illustration.

24
25 liability does not attach to a third party merely because they are involved in the publication of the
advertisement.

1 **2. Plaintiffs do not address the fourth through seventh elements of negligent**
 2 **misrepresentation.**

3 Plaintiffs do not respond to the argument that they have failed to satisfy the fourth
 4 element of a claim for negligent misrepresentation by failing to allege any fact to suggest that
 5 Happy Hour was negligent. *See Repin v. State*, 198 Wn. App. 243, 278, 392 P.3d 1174 (2017).
 6 Plaintiffs have not alleged that Happy Hour had a duty to vet Reed Hein’s statements, any
 7 knowledge or reason to know those statements were false, or any other predicate for a finding
 8 of negligence.

9 Plaintiffs also do not respond to the argument that the Amended Complaint never alleges
 10 that any plaintiff relied on a representation that originated from Happy Hour, that it was
 11 reasonable for a plaintiff to rely on Happy Hour, or that information from Happy Hour caused
 12 the Plaintiffs’ alleged damages. *See Id.* (elements 5-7). Having failed to allege the necessary
 13 elements, Plaintiffs’ claim for negligent misrepresentation by Happy Hour must be dismissed.

14 **E. Plaintiffs’ Amended Complaint is insufficient to plead a plausible claim for**
 15 **conspiracy against Happy Hour.**

16 As the Motion argued, the Amended Complaint’s allegation of an unspecified “deal” is
 17 insufficient to state a claim for civil conspiracy. Nowhere in the Amended Complaint or the
 18 Response do Plaintiffs identify any allegation of factual matter that makes it plausible to
 19 conclude that Happy Hour knew Reed Hein’s representations were false. Hence, there is no
 20 allegation that Happy Hour made an agreement to do anything unlawful or by unlawful means,
 21 as is required for a civil conspiracy. *All Star Gas, Inc., of Wash. v. Bechard*, 100 Wn. App. 732,
 22 740, 998 P.2d 367 (2000).

23 The Response seeks to add allegations that do not appear in the Amended Complaint.
 24 For instance, Plaintiffs incorrectly claim that they have alleged “a contractual relationship
 25 between the conspiring parties.” Dkt. 65 at 22:17 (citing Dkt. 55 ¶¶ 109-114, which say nothing
 about a contract and do not even appear related to Plaintiffs’ argument). The response also

1 claims that the Plaintiffs have alleged that Happy Hour “reaped...benefits” from the conspiracy.
 2 Dkt. 65 at 22:21. Plaintiffs cite paragraphs ¶¶ 2, 5, 13, 118, 122, 131, 134 of the Amended
 3 Complaint, but none of those paragraphs, nor any other alleges any benefit to or enrichment of
 4 Happy Hour. The only allegations about anyone being enriched relate to Reed Hein and the
 5 Ramsey Defendants.

6 Plaintiffs’ “formulaic recitation of the elements of” conspiracy without any factual
 7 allegations to describe the alleged “deal” or what unlawful act Happy Hour agreed to is exactly
 8 the sort of “naked assertion[s] devoid of ‘further factual enhancement’” that cannot support a
 9 viable cause of action, and the claim must be dismissed. *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S.
 10 544, 555, 127 S.Ct. 1955 (2007); *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 667, 129 S.Ct. 1937 (2009).

11 **F. The conversion claim fails because Plaintiffs’ funds are not identifiable.**

12 Plaintiffs have not stated a claim for conversion because they have not alleged any facts
 13 that make it plausible that any money paid to the Ramsey Defendants by Happy Hour can be
 14 identified as the money the Plaintiffs paid to Reed Hein. *Brown ex rel. Richards v. Brown*, 157
 15 Wn. App. 803, 818, 239 P.3d 602 (2010).

16 The Response is written as if this case is a class action already, suggesting that because
 17 the class is responsible for a large portion of Reed Hein’s revenue, some of the class’s funds
 18 must have been transferred to Ramsey through Happy Hour. But at this point, Plaintiffs must
 19 individually state claims for conversion. They must each allege that they can identify their
 20 funds, which collectively total \$115,818.70⁶ out of the alleged \$200,000,000 collected by Reed
 21 Hein, as the funds that were paid by Happy Hour to the Ramsey Defendants. *Id.* They have not
 22 done so.

23 Plaintiffs suggest that there is an open-ended list of “relevant issues” that will determine
 24 identifiability, including “questions relevant to Happy Hour’s role in causing harm.” Dkt. 65 at
 25

⁶ Dkt. No. 55 at ¶¶ 16, 22, 29, 34, 38, 41, 45, 49, 53, 56, 59, 62, 65.

23:15-20. There are no legal citations for this argument because it is baseless. When a plaintiff claims a defendant converted their money, they have to prove that the money the defendant converted is the “identical money” that belongs to the plaintiff. *Westview Invs., Ltd. v. U.S. Bank Nat’l Ass’n*, 133 Wn. App. 835, 852, 138 P.3d 638 (2006) (a claim for conversion was possible where general contractor gave money to a bank to hold in trust for subcontractors but the bank applied that same money to general contractor’s loan account); *Brown*, 157 Wn. App. at 818 (a claim that Hogg converted Dottie’s money was viable because the only possible source of the funds given to Hogg was Dottie’s reverse mortgage). Because Plaintiffs cannot plausibly allege that they can trace any money Happy Hour touched to Plaintiffs’ particular Reed Hein fees, they cannot state a claim for conversion.

Plaintiffs’ argument that Happy Hour misstated the elements of a claim for conversion of money, Dkt. 65 at 24:4-25:17, is moot due to their failure to allege facts sufficient to make identification of their funds plausible. Plaintiffs’ argument is also a jumble. They say conversion of money requires “wrongful receipt” or an obligation to return the funds. Dkt. 65 at 24:10. They do not argue that Happy Hour had an obligation to return funds and do not cite a single case that provides an example of what constitutes “wrongful receipt.” The one cited case that may have been based on an implicit determination of wrongful receipt is *Westview*, which Plaintiffs say is similar to this case. Dkt. 65 at 25:12. There, a bank received payments from a general contractor to be held in trust for subcontractors, but kept the funds for itself to pay down the general contractor’s loan. 133 Wn. App. at 852. Plaintiffs then argue that intent is not a factor in determining “wrongful receipt,” Dkt. 65 at 24:22. They cite *Marriage of Langham*, 153 Wash.2d 553, 106 P.3d 212 (2005), which is not a case of conversion of money and never mentions wrongful receipt. Straightaway, the Plaintiffs then argue that Happy Hour can be liable for conversion because of its participation in a fraud, *i.e.* because its intent was bad. Dkt. 65 at 25:5-11.

1 It is hard to know what to make of this section of the Response other than that Plaintiffs
 2 rely on *Westview*. But *Westview* is unlike this case. Plaintiffs did not provide identifiable
 3 payments to Happy Hour for Happy Hour to hold in trust. Instead, Plaintiffs gave a relatively
 4 small amount of money to Reed Hein. Reed Hein then drew funds from any number of sources
 5 and gave them to Happy Hour to spend on advertising. There is no way to know if the money
 6 that Happy Hour touched came from any of the Plaintiffs. The conversion claim must be
 7 dismissed.

8 **G. Plaintiffs’ newest allegations support Happy Hour’s statute of limitations**
 9 **defense.**

10 The Court’s Order on the Ramsey Defendants’ motion to dismiss does not foreclose
 11 Happy Hour’s statute of limitations defense. The earlier Order was based on what was “apparent
 12 on the face of complaint.” Dkt. 35 at 13: 8-9. And from that Complaint, it was not apparent that
 13 “Plaintiffs knew or should have known about complaints or litigation [against Reed Hein] in
 14 2017, 2018, or 2019.” Dkt. 35 at 13:7-8. Now there is an Amended Complaint and it alleges
 15 that in 2015 it was public knowledge that Reed Hein was misrepresenting itself because of
 16 “public records” of a warning by the North Carolina Bar. Dkt. No. 55 at ¶¶ 93, 177.

17 Plaintiffs contend that the North Carolina records were public enough to put the Ramsey
 18 Defendants on notice of “Reed Hein’s business operations and bad acts” but that they have no
 19 bearing on the Plaintiffs’ discovery of Reed Hein’s misconduct because they were “not the same
 20 thing as a finding of fraud or CPA violations.” Dkt. No. 65 at 26:13, 16-17. Neither the Court’s
 21 earlier Order, nor any principle of law provides that the accrual of a cause of action for negligent
 22 misrepresentation, WCPA violation, conversion, or civil conspiracy depends upon “a finding
 23 of fraud or CPA violations.” The Plaintiffs have alleged that Reed Hein’s misconduct was
 24 public in 2015. They cannot also claim that they were unable to discover Reed Hein’s alleged
 25 misconduct until 2020.

1 Plaintiffs filed this claim on April 28, 2023. All claims of Robert and Samantha Nixon
2 and Marylin Dewey accrued before April 28, 2019, and are therefore barred. Dkt. 55 ¶¶ 34, 39.
3 All but the WCPA claims of Leisa Garrett, the Bottonfelds, Tasha Ryan, and the Rollinses
4 accrued before April 28, 2020 and are also barred. Dkt. 55 ¶¶ 29, 38, 41, 53.

5 II. CONCLUSION

6 For the foregoing reasons, Happy Hour respectfully requests that the Court grant its
7 Renewed Motion to Dismiss and dismiss the Amended Complaint against it with prejudice.

8 DATED this 26th day of January, 2024.

9 This motion 4,182 words per LCR 7(e).

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on January 26, 2024, I caused the foregoing document to be electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

s/ Wen Cruz
Wen Cruz